

**GOLDEN STATE FREEWAY (I-5) AND STATE ROUTE 126 (SR-126)
INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
BETWEEN SANTA CLARITA AND CASTAIC**

FACT SHEET

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is continuing freeway improvements to the Golden State Freeway (I-5) Corridor through the Santa Clarita Valley, in partnership with the Newhall Land and Farming Company, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the City of Santa Clarita, the County of Los Angeles, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the California Highway Patrol.

Interchange improvements are under way at the I-5/SR-126 interchange as well as widening of SR-126 between I-5 and Commerce Center Drive, to accommodate the traffic generated from growth and proposed developments. Without capacity improvements, congestion would occur due to the expected increase in the average daily traffic and peak-hour volumes on SR-126 and the I-5/SR-126 interchange.

Sponsoring Agencies for the I-5/SR-126 Interchange Improvements

Construction funding for this interchange improvement project is being provided by the Newhall Land and Farming Company, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the MTA and the FHWA.

Background

This is the fifth of seven planned projects to the I-5 Corridor in the Santa Clarita Valley since 2000. Four have completed and this project will complete in the summer of 2005. The improvements to the I-5/SR-126 interchange are located in an unincorporated area of northern Los Angeles County between the City of Santa Clarita and the community of Castaic.

The population of the Santa Clarita Valley is expected to grow to approximately 500,000 by 2020. The area will experience a significant increase in traffic from both regional and inter-regional growth projections, as well as planned build-out of local developments.

(OVER)

What the I-5/SR-126 Interchange Improvement Project Involves

- Reconfiguration of the I-5/SR-126 interchange to provide transitions from westbound

- SR-126 to northbound and southbound I-5; and from southbound I-5 to eastbound SR-126
- Widening of SR-126 by adding two lanes in each direction from just east of Commerce Center Drive to Newhall Ranch Road
- Construction of a new direct on-ramp to accommodate westbound SR-126 to northbound I-5 motorists
- Widening the northbound I-5 off-ramp to SR-126
- Realignment of eastbound SR-126 to the northbound I-5 loop on-ramp to accommodate the widening of SR-126
- Construction of a loop on-ramp for westbound SR-126 to southbound I-5
- The existing southbound I-5 off-ramp to SR-126 will be realigned and widened at the SR-126 intersection
- The existing hook on- and off-ramps from SR-126 that access Henry Mayo Drive in the eastbound direction will remain at this time
- The existing hook on- and off-ramps from SR-126 that access The Old Road will be removed
- The widening of SR-126 will require that the existing bridge structure over I-5 be replaced
- The SR-126 bridge over The Old Road will be widened by adding two lanes in each direction

Benefits

This improvement project will increase highway capacity, improve traffic operations, enhance driver safety, assist in relieving congestion and help to accommodate planned growth within the project area.

Schedule

This project began construction in March, 2003 and estimated completion is summer, 2005.

Estimated Cost: \$24 million

There may be certain unavoidable inconveniences during the construction of these projects. Caltrans and the contractor will do everything possible to keep inconveniences to a minimum. Press releases with specific closure dates are distributed to local newspapers and media outlets in order to keep the public informed as work progresses.

When closures occur, signs and detours will be posted to assist motorists.

Construction and closure dates are weather-permitting and subject to change.

CONTACTS

For additional information, please call the Caltrans Public Affairs Office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (213) 897-3630 or (213) 897-3656.

Caltrans thanks the motoring public for their patience and cooperation during this transportation improvement project.

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